OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COORDINATOR  
FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND SUPPORT1510 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1510

12 OCT 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)  
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE  
AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

SUBJECT: Drug Screen Testing Levels for Opiates

Reference is made to my December 7, 1993, Memorandum to the Services on Drug Screen Testing Levels for Opiates. The military drug testing laboratories use initial and confirmatory test levels that are based on the best technical information and analytical methodology available. The referenced memorandum changed the confirmation levels for morphine and codeine from 300 ng/mL for both drugs to 4,000 and 2,000 ng/mL, respectively, for morphine and codeine, effective April 1, 1994. The same memorandum also authorized changing the initial test (screening) cutoff for opiates to 2000 ng/mL of morphine when the materials were available to allow for this change.

The new radioimmunoassay kit that allows for this cutoff change to occur is now available for use. The initial test cutoff for opiates, therefore, is increased to 2000 ng/mL, and will become effective December 1, 1994. This date will allow sufficient time for the laboratories to implement appropriate changes in their laboratory procedures and to obtain the appropriate materials to complete testing at the new level.

In summary, the following testing (cut-off) levels for opiates will be in effect on December 1, 1994:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Initial Test</u>	<u>Confirmation Test</u>
Morphine	2000 ng/mL	4000 ng/mL
Codeine		2000 ng/mL
6-monoacetylmorphine		10 ng/mL

Reporting of confirmed opiate results shall continue to be as follows:

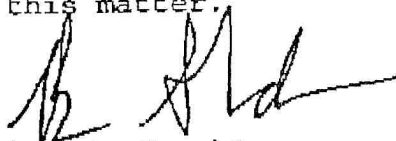
a. Any specimen containing 6-monoacetylmorphine at or above the confirmation cut-off shall be reported as "HEROIN" without regard to morphine or codeine confirmation concentrations.

b. Morphine at or above the confirmation cut-off shall be reported as "morphine".



c. Codeine at or above the confirmation cut-off shall be reported as "codeine".

Additional information may be obtained by contacting CAPT Hilderbrand at commercial (703) 693-1917 or DSN 223-1917. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



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